

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Maine

Profile of Drug Indicators

October 2002



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Maine

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 1,286,670 (2001 estimate); 1,274,923 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 96.5% white; 0.5% black/African American; 0.5% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.7% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% other race; 0.9% two or more races; 0.7% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)

Politics

- Governor: Angus S. King, Jr.²
- Attorney General: G. Steven Rowe³
- Secretary of State: Dan A. Gwadosky⁴
- U.S. Senate: Olympia Snowe (R); Susan Collins (R)⁵
- U.S. Representatives: Thomas H. Allen; John Elias Baldacci⁶
- Capital: Augusta⁷

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁸
Designated in 1999, the New England HIDTA is responsible for numerous counties in 6 states, including Maine's Cumberland County. This HIDTA was designated in part because of the high purity heroin found throughout New England and the criminal groups trafficking heroin and crack from New York to New England.
- Driver Education and Evaluation Program (DEEP)⁹
DEEP serves as the state's countermeasure for individuals who have had one or more alcohol- and/or drug-related motor vehicle offenses. DEEP's programs are designed to provide a therapeutic intervention into the cause of the behavior that resulted in the impaired driving offense in order to prevent future offenses.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Maine:¹⁰
 - FY 2002: \$99,990 to the Gardiner Area Community Collaborative, Gardiner
 - FY 2001: \$99,704 to the Healthy Community Coalition, Farmington
 - FY 2000: \$100,000 to Community Asset Builders, York
 - FY 1999: \$100,000 to River Coalition, Inc., Old Town
 - FY 1998: no coalitions received funding
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹¹
There are two sites in Maine that have received official recognition and funding as Federal Weed and Seed sites: Androscoggin and Midcoast.
- FY 2001/2002 SAMHSA Formula and Discretionary Grant Summary for Maine:¹²
 - Formula Funding - \$8,986,342
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$6,468,750

- Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$1,832,692
- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$300,000
- Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$384,900
- Discretionary Funding - \$6,811,078
 - Mental Health - \$3,029,998
 - Substance Prevention - \$3,020,000
 - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$761,080
- Total Mental Health Funds: \$5,547,590
- Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$10,249,830
- Total Funds for Maine: \$15,797,420
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court grant amount awarded to Maine: \$177,911 to the Maine Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services/Office of Substance Abuse to be used for drug court enhancement.¹³
- FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Maine: \$3,109,473¹⁴
- FY 2001 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Maine: \$294,651¹⁵
- No organizations in Maine received funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant Program during FY 2001.¹⁶

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2000, there were 9 arrests for murder in Maine, a fifty percent decrease from the eighteen murder arrests reported in 1999.¹⁷

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Maine, 1999-2000

Offense	1999	2000	% Change
Murder	18	9	-50.0%
Forcible rape	105	106	+1.0
Robbery	127	148	+16.5
Aggravated assault	523	632	+20.8
Burglary	1,562	1,328	-15.0
Larceny-theft	6,174	5,390	-12.7
Motor vehicle theft	477	372	-22.0
Arson	87	64	-26.4
Drug abuse violations	4,494	5,090	+13.3
Driving under the influence	7,293	7,452	+2.2
Liquor law violations	3,194	3,089	-3.3

- There were 4,195 adult drug arrests in Maine in 2000. 903 of the adult arrests were for drug sale/manufacturing.¹⁸

Number of Adult Drug Arrests, Maine, 2000

Drug Type	Sale/Manufacturing	Possession
Opium, cocaine and derivatives	196	233
Marijuana	482	2,617
Synthetic narcotics	96	143
Other dangerous non-narcotics	129	299
Total	903	3,292

- During FY 2001, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA):¹⁹
 - received 1,328 reports of suspected drug trafficking
 - conducted 883 investigations and 167 search warrants resulting in the arrests of 661 persons (a decrease of eighteen percent from FY 2000)
 - was responsible for 54 percent of all drug sales arrests made in Maine
 - assisted other agencies with 388 investigations resulting in the arrest of 162 individuals.
- Of MDEA's drug-related arrests:²⁰
 - 30% involved marijuana
 - 25% involved prescription drugs
 - 19% involved cocaine
 - 18% involved heroin
 - 8% involved all other drugs
- The percentage of MDEA investigations resulting in arrest for use and sale of opiates rose from 15 percent of all MDEA cases in FY 1998 to 43 percent in FY 2001.²¹

Drugs

- Cocaine

The abuse of cocaine is relatively stable, although crack cocaine abuse is increasing in southern and central Maine. In the first quarter of 2002, powdered cocaine sold for \$80-\$100 per gram and was 30-80 percent pure. Crack sold for \$20-\$50 per rock and was 75-100 percent pure.²²
- Diverted Pharmaceuticals

Diverted pharmaceuticals, primarily OxyContin and Dilaudid, have become the primary drug threat in Maine. OxyContin currently sells for approximately \$1 per milligram of active ingredient (\$80 for an 80-milligram tablet).²³ OxyContin seems to be a gateway for heroin.²⁴
- Heroin

Heroin, primarily South American, is Maine's second most significant drug threat (behind diverted pharmaceuticals) and abuse continues to increase. Heroin abuse is increasing statewide, particularly among teenagers, and has recently become a problem in northern Maine. In the first quarter of 2002, heroin sold for \$40-\$60 per gram, and purity levels ranged from 50-90 percent.²⁵
- Marijuana

Marijuana is the most widely abused and commonly available illicit drug in Maine. According to the Maine Office of Substance Abuse, an estimated 95,000 of Maine's approximately 1.2 million adult residents routinely abuse marijuana. In the first quarter of 2002, commercial grade marijuana sold for \$1,000 to \$1,600 per pound,

sinsemilla sold for \$1,800 to \$2,000 per pound, and one marijuana joint sold for \$3 to \$5. Mexico-based criminal groups produce most of the marijuana that is available in Maine. Marijuana produced in Canada is also available but to a much lesser extent.²⁶

➤ **Methamphetamine**

Methamphetamine is available in limited quantities in Maine and is considered a low threat. In the first quarter of FY 2002, methamphetamine sold for \$70 to \$300 per gram.²⁷

➤ **Other Drugs²⁸**

- A growing use of MDMA and other club drugs is reported in southern Maine. In 2001, MDMA tablets sold for \$15-\$20 at the retail level.
- Caucasian teenagers and young adults are the primary distributors and abusers of LSD in Maine. LSD is usually distributed and abused on college campuses and at concerts, nightclubs, and raves. In the first quarter of 2002, LSD sold for \$3 to \$7 per dosage unit.

Juveniles

- There were 764 juvenile drug possession arrests in Maine during 2000.²⁹

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, Maine, 2000

Drug Type	Sale/Manufacturing	Possession
Opium, cocaine and derivatives	6	9
Marijuana	64	636
Synthetic narcotics	18	30
Other dangerous non-narcotics	43	89
Total	131	764

- In certain areas of Maine, prescription opiates have become the first drugs abused by young users.³⁰
- Nearly ten percent of sixth grade students surveyed as part of the *2002 Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Use Survey* reported using inhalants at least one time during their lives.³¹

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Use of Substances, Maine, 2002

Substance	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Alcohol	19.7%	30.5%	44.9%
Marijuana	3.2	8.5	18.3
Cocaine	1.3	2.4	3.9
Heroin	0.9	1.7	2.4
Ecstasy	0.8	2.0	4.3
Hallucinogens	0.9	2.0	3.9
Inhalants	9.7	13.3	15.1
Stimulants	0.8	1.5	3.1
OxyContin	1.0	2.0	3.7
Other prescription	7.8	10.5	14.4
Other illegal drug	2.5	5.6	10.6

- More than fifty-five percent of high schools seniors reported lifetime marijuana use.³²

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Use of Substances, Maine, 2002

Substance	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Alcohol	57.5%	68.4%	75.4%	79.2%
Marijuana	30.1	42.6	51.4	55.3
Cocaine	4.3	5.8	7.5	8.4
Heroin	2.5	2.7	3.5	3.4
Ecstasy	6.1	8.3	11.0	13.1
Hallucinogens	5.2	7.5	10.7	12.0
Inhalants	12.6	11.7	11.7	10.6
Stimulants	4.2	5.7	8.0	7.2
OxyContin	5.0	7.6	9.6	9.2
Other prescription	18.4	22.8	24.7	24.9
Other illegal drug	15.6	19.7	21.6	20.2

Enforcement

- As of October 2000, there were 2,881 full-time law enforcement employees in Maine.³³
- There is one New England HIDTA initiative found in Maine – the Northeast New England HIDTA Task Force. Located in Portland, members of this task force target criminal groups that traffic heroin and cocaine.³⁴
- Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA)³⁵
MDEA is a statewide multi-jurisdictional task force with officers from local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. During 2001, there were 34 law enforcement officers and seven Maine National Guard officers assigned to MDEA.

Trafficking and Seizures

- Outlaw motorcycle gangs dominate wholesale marijuana distribution in Maine, distributing approximately 300 to 500 pounds of marijuana each month.³⁶
- During 2001, there were 11,036 cultivated marijuana plants eradicated and seized in Maine under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³⁷

Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program Statistics, Maine, 2001

Item Seized	Amount Seized
Outdoor plots eradicated	192
Outdoor cultivated plants eradicated	9,341
Indoor grows seized	42
Indoor plants eradicated	1,722
Total Cultivated Plants Eradicated	11,036
Bulk Processed Marijuana Seized	74 pounds
Weapons Seized	77
Value of Assets Seized	\$496,428

- In FY 2001, MDEA heroin seizures rose 171 percent from FY 2000 and 622 percent from FY 1999 amounts.³⁸
- State and local law enforcement seized 13,978 dosage units of diverted pharmaceuticals in FY 2001, an increase from 4,563 dosage units seized in FY 2000.³⁹

Amount of Drugs Seized, Maine, FY 2000-FY 2001

Drug Type	FY 2000	FY 2001
Crack cocaine	197 grams	881 grams
Powdered cocaine	5,817 grams	4,075 grams
Diverted pharmaceuticals	4,563 dosage units	13,978 dosage units
Marijuana	163 kilograms	198 kilograms
MDMA	120 dosage units	9,681 dosage units
LSD	873 dosage units	971 dosage units

- MDEA seized \$231,361.17 in drug-related currency during FY 2001.⁴⁰

Courts

- Drug Courts⁴¹
As of June 6, 2002, there were sixteen drug courts in existence or being planned in Maine. There are no drug courts in Maine that have been operating for over two years, thirteen have recently been implemented, and three are being planned.
- During FY 2001, 34.9 percent of the Federally-sentenced defendants in Maine committed a drug offense. Thirty-two percent of the drug cases involved marijuana.⁴²

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, by Drug Type, Maine, FY 2001

Drug Type	Number	Percent
Marijuana	22	32.4
Powder cocaine	11	16.2
Crack cocaine	19	27.9
Methamphetamine	1	1.5
Heroin	8	11.8
Other	7	10.3

Corrections

- On December 31, 2001, there were 1,704 prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or Federal correctional authorities in Maine.⁴³
- Differential Substance Abuse Treatment (DSAT)⁴⁴
DSAT is a substance abuse treatment program developed for adults involved in the criminal justice system. In the DSAT program, men and women attend separate treatment groups that target their level of addiction severity.
- Key Maine Therapeutic Community - Transitional Treatment Program (TC-TTP)⁴⁵
Key Maine TC-TTP seeks to enable offenders to gain control over their addiction in the last eighteen months of their incarceration and make a successful transition to the community. The TC program lasts for ten to twelve months, at which time the graduates enter the TTP, which combines work release and drug treatment during the

last six months of incarceration. Inmates work on reentry planning with TTP staff and are referred to community providers upon release.

- Juvenile Corrections Substance Abuse Treatment Network⁴⁶
The Juvenile Corrections Substance Abuse Treatment Network is a coordinated statewide system that provides a centralized screening and referral process to identify juvenile offenders with substance abuse issues.
- Substance abuse treatment services are available in the following Maine juvenile corrections centers: Long Creek Youth Development Center (South Portland) and Mountain View Youth Development Center (Charleston).⁴⁷
- On December 31, 2001, there were 8,939 adults on probation and 27 adults on parole in Maine.⁴⁸

Consequences of Use

- During 2000, there were 66 drug overdose deaths in Maine.⁴⁹
- Abuse of prescription narcotics has caused a dramatic increase in the spread of Hepatitis C in the drug using population and a tripling of hospital admissions for opiate-related illnesses between 1996 and 2000.⁵⁰

Treatment

- In the first half of FY 2002, there were 8,871 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Maine.⁵¹

Number of Admissions to Treatment, by Primary Problem, Maine, 1999-2002

Substance	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	First half FY 2002
Alcohol	12,222	12,887	13,550	6,534
Barbiturates	21	16	13	9
Benzodiazepines	69	67	72	46
Cocaine	284	312	357	157
Heroin	386	525	655	358
Inhalants	5	4	5	2
Marijuana	1,488	1,524	1,791	857
Methamphetamine	25	36	18	17
Non-treatment methadone	20	16	12	5
Other opiates and synthetics	429	777	1,001	497
Other amphetamines	12	11	21	10
Other stimulants	11	7	13	8
Other hallucinogens	28	28	49	22
Other sedatives/hypnotics	14	22	19	8
Other tranquilizers	13	9	9	1
Over-the-counter	7	4	10	3
PCP	3	1	6	3
Other/none reported	26	47	94	40
Total admissions	15,948	16,906	18,328	8,871

- Opiate addicts have increased from constituting two percent of the treatment population in 1995 to twelve percent in 2001.⁵²
- Until spring 2001, there were only two methadone clinics in Maine. An increased need for services led to the licensure of two additional methadone programs.⁵³
- Substance Abuse Treatment Network for Adolescents⁵⁴
Modeled after the successful Juvenile Corrections Substance Abuse Treatment Network, the Substance Abuse Treatment Network for Adolescents began in June 2002 to provide services to adolescents outside the juvenile corrections system.

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